



BACKGROUND

4th May 2017 is the date of the election for the first Greater Manchester Mayor. This is a significant moment in the evolution of the governance structure for Greater Manchester and in the Government's devolution strategy.

Greater Manchester Chamber has supported the proposal for an elected "metro mayor" for a number of years and has worked extensively with members and others to define positions on several key local issues.

With two months to the election, the Chamber has released its campaign document highlighting under five themes what members have said they want to see from the mayor. These themes, together with a short summary of the role, are detailed below. More can be found on the Chamber's website including details of upcoming events with the candidates.

As ever, your views are tremendously important to this and, through the Chamber, we can make sure that these get represented to the mayor. Contact details can be found below and we really do want to hear from you.

We will also be asking the candidates to respond directly to questions and contribute articles to the magazine and for our on-line channels.

Finally, don't forget to tick the box on our front cover this month and let us see your priorities.

THE ROLE OF THE MAYOR

In October 2016 the Chamber Assembly approved the first draft of its Greater Manchester Mayor Job Description, which it used to help clarify for members the role of the mayor, including the statutory executive duties and a summary of the key competencies and skills members believed were needed to be successful in the role.

The document highlighted the following as being the operational purpose of the mayor:

To lead successfully the future development and growth of Greater Manchester by raising economic performance across all locations to deliver sustainable growth, increase employment opportunities, improve skills levels across the workforce, reduce social and economic inequalities and develop the Greater Manchester brand nationally and overseas.

To be a strong advocate to central government and work collaboratively with other elected mayors in the UK to ensure the continued progress of devolution and the successful delivery of ambitions identified as part of the Northern Powerhouse.

The role of the mayor should also include forging effective links and bilateral agreements with cities across Europe and the World, ensuring that international trade grows and develops alongside future international policy and strategy.

There are five main themes that our members believe outline the focus of the areas of work that the mayor will deliver.

They are:

1. Business Support, Engagement & Services
2. Skills
3. Infrastructure
4. Planning
5. Trade

In addition to this our members also outlined the measures of success that they believe the mayor should work towards. They are:

- Economic impact – measure of employment levels, investment, growth rates
- Closing the inequality gap especially amongst young people
- Identify and incorporate the role of Greater Manchester within and as a lead of the Northern Powerhouse
- Infrastructure – transport, housing, skills, digital – level of investment and progress against targets
- Financial – budget performance
- Successful and effective delivery of the Greater Manchester Health & Social Care budget
- Establish Greater Manchester and its mayor as a leading influence on national policies and international activity that includes the reduction of reliance on Whitehall, greater autonomy and an effective international presence.

Candidates as at 17th February 2017

Conservative Party

Sean Anstee

Labour Party

Rt Hon Andy Burnham, MP

Liberal Democrats

Jane Brophy

UKIP

Shneur Odze

English Democrats

Stephen Morris

Independent

Marcus Farmer

1. BUSINESS SUPPORT, ENGAGEMENT & SERVICES

The mayor has the following as statutory executive duties:

- Chair the Greater Manchester Combined Authority – which is responsible for the delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy; Greater Manchester Spatial Framework; Business Support; local commissioning for skills and has oversight on the £6bn devolved health and social care budget.
- Deliver the role of Police & Crime Commissioner.
- Be responsible for the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

Greater Manchester Chamber members would like the mayor to:

- Take an active role in ensuring that the existing governing bodies accurately represent the whole of the business community in Greater Manchester and that there is a broader democratic voice for business in decision making that affects them. (1.1)
- Have sustained, meaningful and effective engagement with the business community throughout the whole of Greater Manchester. (1.2)
- Review local procurement processes and ensure that there is easier access for all businesses to new contracts.(1.3)
- Ensure that the Mayor's office, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and all local government bodies continue to be leading exponents of prompt payment that has developed successfully over the last few years. (1.4)
- Ensure that local governance is effective and transparent with regards to decision making for the destination of funds raised through local business rates retention, as well as any proposed mayoral supplement. The priority should be for these funds to be hypothecated and reinvested back into business expansion and development projects to stimulate growth, especially in areas in most need to help deliver inclusive growth. (1.5)

2. SKILLS

The mayor is:

- Responsible for the local commissioning of skills provision through the GMCA including the adult skills budget

Chamber members would like the mayor to:

- Take an active role in ensuring that there is a new approach to careers advice, work placement and full engagement between business and education across all Greater Manchester, meaning that young people will leave compulsory and further education well prepared for work and career advancement. The Chamber will help support this by encouraging members to become involved and develop its Young Chamber offer. (2.1)
- Look actively for ways to address gaps in skills that affect productivity and growth across Greater Manchester. Use of tools such as the pipeline analysis to ensure there is adequate provision of current requirements and that future provision is effectively planned for, targeted and delivered. The Chamber has already produced its pipeline analysis for the construction sector and can deliver similar research for major schemes. (2.2)
- Ensure employers are at the heart of the skills system and are incentivised to invest in the growth of the skills of their workforce. The Chamber will continue to bid successfully for skills funding and communicate financial incentives for training opportunities to members. (2.3)
- Actively encourage businesses to invest in apprenticeships, especially in vocations which support intermediate and advanced skills in areas linked to Greater Manchester's growth sectors. The Chamber will support this by continuing to promote the apprenticeship agenda and provide information to our members about apprenticeship reform, including the levy. The Chamber has produced a dynamic website to inform our members about the reforms and what these mean for our business community: www.apprenticeshipfacts.co.uk (2.4)
- Ensure that all policies and activities related to skills are designed and delivered to ensure full inclusion across Greater Manchester – not just for those already in education but those in the workplace or not in education or employment and other groups that fall outside the scope of traditional support programmes. (2.5)

3. INFRASTRUCTURE

The mayor will:

- Be responsible for the effective delivery of the devolved local transport budget including (subject to consultation) the delivery of a new franchised bus service, the implementation of smart ticketing and the devolution of rail stations across Greater Manchester.

Chamber members would like the mayor to:

- Undertake a review into the Greater Manchester road network with the aim of alleviating chronic congestion and tackle “hot spots” throughout the city region recognising that for many businesses road transport is the only viable option. (3.1)
 - Focus as an immediate priority on the means and ability to move high volumes of commuters and freight more effectively before looking at other transport schemes. (3.2)
 - Continue to develop and support the delivery of major new road-based schemes such as the trans-Pennine route and the M60 North West quadrant proposals. (3.3)
 - Continue to support the development of HS2 and start development work as quickly as possible to maximise economic benefits. (3.4)
 - Support the speeding up of continued work and development of Crossrail North (Northern Powerhouse rail) to complement the delivery of HS2. (3.5)
 - Have full and effective engagement with the business community where business rate supplements may be raised and not just rely on consultation with the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) (3.6)
 - Have a digital strategy in place early in his or her term in office. This should build on Greater Manchester’s rapid growth into a major digital and creative sector hub as well as recognising that all businesses require access to an effective world class broadband network in the 21st century. Greater Manchester aspirations should be ahead of government targets for acceptable speeds, both download and upload. (3.7)
 - Not only deliver the introduction of smart ticketing ensure the full integration of public transport timetables to ensure that all current obstacles to usage are removed and new style transport hubs work effectively for passengers. (3.8)
 - Review parking facilities – park and ride and smart parking systems – highlighting spaces that are available and assist with keeping traffic free flowing. (3.9)
 - Work effectively and constructively with other local administrations, elected mayors and combined authorities across the north of England to deliver the “Northern Powerhouse”. (3.10)
-

4. PLANNING

The mayor will:

- Have power over strategic planning including the implementation of a new Community Infrastructure Levy to assist funding for developments.
- Chair, jointly with the Housing Minister, the Greater Manchester Land Commission.
- Be responsible for the Mayoral Development Corporation.

Chamber members would like the mayor to:

- Co-ordinate effectively the various overlapping strategies being produced on infrastructure delivery, development and growth. (4.1)
- Ensure that the additional infrastructure requirements (roads, transport systems, social infrastructure, school places) which will be needed for all development schemes are given priority. (4.2)
- Play a pivotal role in the alleviation of housing shortages and successfully deliver the targets and objectives set out in the GMSF with full engagement with the local business community. (4.3)

5. TRADE

Whilst having no official statutory duties for trade, Chamber members believe that the mayor will have a crucial role to play on the international stage post-Brexit, ensuring that overseas trade and inward investment continue to develop and maximising the growth of the airport and other international access points.

Chamber members would like the mayor to:

- Establish a pro-investment campaign that continues to attract overseas investment using the opportunity of the Chamber's expertise and experience in developing access to overseas markets and in hosting inward trade delegations. (5.1)
 - Actively pursue and increase the opportunities for hosting major international conferences that highlight the region and can be used to effect new trading opportunities. (5.2)
-

Greater Manchester Chamber working with the mayor

In addition to the specific policy areas and activity highlighted above, the Chamber will:

- Extend an invitation to the mayor to become an honorary member of the Chamber and to attend Chamber Assembly meetings.
- Offer and arrange events around the 10 local areas using its extensive range of existing networking events and established business groups, which many local authorities already use to engage with businesses. This will help to address any potential issues that may arise over the level of engagement by the mayor with areas away from the city centre.
- Continue the strengthening of its member groups to ensure that they continue to represent and reflect local businesses and which will work with the mayor's office to assist in developing more effective business engagement.
- Continue to work closely with Chambers across the north of England, and beyond, to ensure that business connectivity remains at the core of future developments and to help with the work of the mayor's office on business issues beyond the Greater Manchester boundaries.